



Summer 2018 EJA Fellow



Name: Pretty Martinez

Law School: Temple University Beasley School of Law

EJA Fellowship: ACLU of Pennsylvania

Entry 1: Week of 6/11/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate As part of my Equal Justice America Fellowship, I will be sharing some of the work I'm involved with this summer: A few weeks ago I started my 1L summer internship with the ACLU of Pennsylvania. On May 30, 2018 we were legal observers as the city of Philadelphia cleared two of four homeless encampments in Kensington. The heroin epidemic in Philadelphia, especially among the homeless population, requires immediate attention as Philadelphia's drug overdose rate is among the highest in the nation. Some efforts include a move toward safe-injection sites, shelters, and rehabilitative treatment but these seem rare and in need of steady funding. @templelaw @aclupa @ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Entry 2: Week of 6/25/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate: This morning, we attended a protest as legal observers. Protesters spoke against ICE, the Muslim ban, detention, and family separation. They blocked the door of the Philadelphia ICE field office, and a few were removed and issued civil citations. A few stats about immigration in the United States: There are 41 million immigrants in the United States. In 2013, 83 percent of people deported from the United States were not given a hearing before a judge. The United States spends around \$1.84 billion detaining immigrants. (Any opinions stated here are my personal opinions and not linked to the ACLU) @ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Entry 3: 08/06/2018

#EJAFellowUpdate This summer at the ACLU-PA I learned more about mass incarceration and steps the US can and should take to change a costly system that traumatizes people, especially communities of color. The US incarcerates more people than any other country in the WORLD. The imprisonment rate among Black men was nearly SIX TIMES that of white men in 2014. The imprisonment rate for Black women was double that of white of women. Check out the ACLU's Smart Justice campaign, a layered, multiyear effort to reduce the jail and prison population and combat racial disparities in the criminal justice system.



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

LEGAL SERVICES FELLOWSHIPS

Entry 4: 08/09/2018

[#EJAFellowUpdate](#) This week I'm wrapping up my summer legal internship with the ACLU-PA. I came to law school because I wanted to learn how to better advocate for Immigrants' rights. Having been raised by a community of strong, resilient immigrant women, the issue is very close to my heart. In a time where the politics of otherness have gained force, I think it's important to remember the law is about people, and people are not just numbers or statistics or inconvenient costs to those with deep pockets. During my time with the ACLU-PA this summer I learned from attorneys who work as lawyers for the people. I was inspired by their resilience, perseverance, fearlessness, and drive. I had the opportunity to learn from attorneys who, every day, work to right wrongs and strive for equity. I'd like to thank EJA and the ACLU-PA for an incredibly rewarding experience this summer. Please consider supporting Equal Justice America so that law students can continue to intern at public interest non-profits and prepare to enter the public interest sector.

August 8, 2018

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
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Dear Mr. Ruben:

I write to express our gratitude to Equal Justice America for supporting Pretty Martinez's summer internship with the ACLU of Pennsylvania. My colleagues and I were consistently impressed by her positive attitude, work ethic, and desire to improve her legal skills (particularly her writing). Her presence was unquestionably a boon to the office.

Ms. Martinez worked on a variety of issues, from the unlawful imprisonment of people who are too poor to pay court fines arising out of criminal cases, to issues of municipal liability for federal impact litigation and factual research regarding elected officials who block negative comments on social media. She also helped vet potential clients who contacted us through our intake system. In my opinion, she met or exceeded expectations for each project.

Ms. Martinez displayed not only an interest in our work, but also a real curiosity to learn and understand more about the issues we are working on. For example, over the summer we started researching potential claims under the Pennsylvania Constitution to assert certain rights that provide more protection than their federal counterparts. Ms. Martinez immediately volunteered for this work and intends to return during the academic year to continue the research.

Without financial support from EJA, Ms. Martinez would have been denied a valuable professional-development opportunity, and our office would have been denied an exceptional intern. Such support is key to preparing the next generation of public interest lawyers to provide much-needed services to underserved populations, and I count Ms. Martinez among that cohort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Christy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Andrew Christy

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of Pennsylvania

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